

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Express Mail No.: EV318091209US

Date of Deposit: 30 September 2003

03916 U.S. PTO  
 10/675412  
 093003

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): Richard Norris DODGE II et al.

For: **ABSORBENT MATERIALS HAVING IMPROVED FLUID INTAKE AND LOCK-UP PROPERTIES**  
 (A divisional application of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/291,239, Filing Date: 08 November 2002, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/017,683, Filing Date: 14 December 2001)

Prior Application Information: Examiner: Michele Kidwell; Group No.: 3761

Enclosed are:

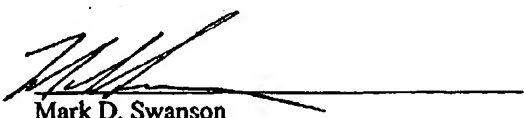
- ☒ Thirty-two (32) pages of specification, one (1) cover sheet, twelve (12) pages of claims (Claims 1-54), one (1) page of Abstract, and eight (8) sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-3, 4A, 4B and 5-8).
- ☒ A true copy of the executed combined Oath or Declaration, Power of Attorney and Petition from Serial No. 10/291,239 (5 pages).
- ☒ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail (2 pages).
- ☒ First Information Disclosure Statement, together with Form PTO-1449 (5 pages) and without a copy of each and every cited reference.
- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

|  | COL. 1     | COL. 2    | SMALL ENTITY |       |    | LARGE ENTITY |       |
|--|------------|-----------|--------------|-------|----|--------------|-------|
| FOR:   | NO. FILED  | NO. EXTRA | RATE         | FEE   | OR | RATE         | FEE   |
| BASIC FEE  |            |           |              | \$375 | OR |              | \$750 |
| TOTAL CLAIMS   | 54 less 20 | 34        | X 09 =       |       | OR | X 18 =       | 612   |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS   | 5 less 3   | 2         | X 42 =       |       | OR | X 84 =       | 168   |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED                                  |            |           | +140=        |       | OR | +280 =       |       |
| * IF THE DIFFERENCE IN COL. 1 IS LESS THAN ZERO, ENTER "0" IN COL. 2 |            |           | TOTAL        |       | OR | TOTAL        | 1530  |

- ☒ A check in the amount of \$1530.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3550. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
  - ☒ Any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
  - ☐ Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.

Pauley Petersen & Erickson  
 2800 W. Higgins Road, Suite 365  
 Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195  
 Phone (847) 490-1400  
 Fax (847) 490-1403

  
 Mark D. Swanson  
 Registration No. 48,498

P200/paf